

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment and Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed February 10, 2006. Claim 1 has been cancelled from the present application. Claims 67-80, which are fully supported by the specification have been added to the application. Therefore, claims 67-80 are the claims currently pending in the present application.

Formal Matters

1. Applicants hereby petition for the three month extension of time required to maintain the pendency of this case. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fees required by this response to Deposit Account No. 50-2613 Order No. (45098.00008.CON.P1068) including the petition for extension of time.

2. Applicants respectfully submit that newly added claims 67-80 are fully supported by the specification.

3. Applicants thank the Examiner for accepting the drawings.

35 U.S.C. §102 - Walker

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,978,756 to Walker et al. ("Walker"). Claim 1 is an independent claim and has been cancelled from the present application thus making the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully submit that newly added independent claims 67, 69, 72 and 75 and the claims that depend therefrom are technically distinct from the Walker reference and thus respectfully request that the Examiner find allowable the newly added claims (67-80).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe that the entire application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If it is believed that prosecution can be assisted thereby, the examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Applicants hereby petition for three month extension of time required to maintain the pendency of this case. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fee for such extension, and any other fee that may be due in connection with this and the attached papers, or with this application during its entire pendency, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **50-2613**, referencing **45098.00008.CON1**.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL, HASTINGS, JANOFSKY & WALKER LLP

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By: 

Amy E. Simpson, Esq.
Reg. No. 54,688

PAUL, HASTINGS, JANOFSKY & WALKER LLP
P.O. BOX 919092
San Diego, CA 92191-9092
Telephone: (858) 720-2500
Facsimile: (858) 720-2555